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man with "La Grand Duchesse," though for only four nights. It proved an immense success, and would have drawn full houses much longer. The individual voices were not particularly admired, but the acting was capital, and the orchestra and chorus very effective. It is understood that Mr. Batesman will bring out a much more powerful company next season.

Now the Richings Troupe is here with English Opera, at Holliday street, and doing a splendid business. Martha went off admirably last night, and they cannot fail of a most successful two weeks' engagement. In addition to all this there have been numerous Concerts, by private associations and others, which have been in the main exceedingly well attended. Mr. Friedman, a young and promising tenor, who develops a ringing, pure and extensive voice, proposes a Concert on the 28th inst. when he will have the best of amateur and professional aid. He has made a decided hit recently at the Concerts of the Haydn Association and one given last Saturday night at the Peabody Institute.

Perhaps, however, the chief indication of musical progress here is to be found in the increase of business of the celebrated Piano house of Knabe & Co. The mammoth establishments of Messrs. Knabe & Co. occupy, first, for manufacturing purposes, an entire block on West street, in the southwestern portion of the city, and for finishing and salesrooms, the extensive building fronting on Baltimore and Eutaw streets and running back to an alley in the rear. All the appointments of both of these are most admirably fitted for the requirements of their large business, which involves the production of thirty pianos per week, for which they have a constant demand. The late connections of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in the West have greatly increased their trade in that direction, and they now give employment to about 300 skilled workmen. The character of their instruments, as is well known, is of the first order, combining as they do the essentials of purity of tone, singing quality, and unquestionable durability. Among the notable grand pianos recently produced by them are those for which they obtained a patent in 1867, and which for clearness, force, distinctness and perfection of quality have never been surpassed by any manufactured in the United States, and can safely challenge anything turned out by Erard himself.

I hope frequently to be able to give you musical notes, but having already trespassed on your columns, I will, for the present, close.

#### MUSICUS.

Patti will soon appear at Paris as Semiramide, the least, yet possibly the greatest, known to the opera stage. Verdi's "Giovanna d'Arco" will next be vitalized by this daring little *prima donna*, whose ambition seems vaulting to the highest tragic opera: her success—at least in Paris—is assured in whatever she undertakes. The last named opera, "Joan of Arc," has not yet been heard in Paris. We heard it some years ago at the Carcano, Milan, and can testify to the charm and grandeur of the music; it should please wherever heard.

At St. Petersburgh, notwithstanding the glacial temperature, the Italian opera season has been very brilliant. It terminates about the end of the present month.

#### THIS IS ALL.

(Written for Watson's Art Journal.)

Day by day a restless struggle,  
Mounting, mounting but to fall ;  
Day by day a hopeless longing,  
This is all !

Ever striving, never gaining ;  
Bound and yearning past my thrall—  
Still so far from all I stretch to—  
This is all !

Day by day a hope still keeping  
Every trembling nerve at strain—  
Faith and patience and endurance  
All in vain !

Hopes that battle with a legion,  
Aims that urge me with their call,  
As I grasp them turn to ashes  
That is all !

Every step I win with praying  
Links me lower as I climb—  
I shall never win the treasure  
In my time !

Far removed it smiles above me,  
Smiling as I strive and fall ;  
All my life is wasted passion,  
This is all !

When the torch of life burns dimmer  
And the darkness shapes a pall—  
Shall they say of dust and ashes—  
This is all ?

I have dreamed a better vision  
Of the end when this is past ;  
I have seen the path made perfect,  
At the last !

No more strife and no more climbing,  
One shall lead me past my thrall—  
And the lips of Christ shall tell me  
"This is all !"

"All the glory that you yearned for  
Aiming past the strife and fall,  
Life's best place and highest passion,  
This is all !"

Take the dream of life made perfect,  
Taste its sweetness without gall,  
Take thine idol safe in Heaven,  
"This is all !" MINETTE.

New York, Feb. 24th, 1868.

We insert the following with pleasure, and we commend the context to the parties in England to whom it is addressed. It will be a grand affair, and will bring together 100,000 visitors from all parts of America and Europe. A building will be erected for the Festival, in which the trials of skill will take place, and a round of brilliant entertainments will make the occasion to be remembered. The Committee publishes a paper especially devoted to the interests and objects of the Festival, in English and German, which is elegantly produced and ably edited. We confidently predict for the undertaking a brilliant success.

NEW YORK, February, 1868.  
TO ENGLISH RIFLEMEN.

The art of shooting, while it constitutes one of the many choice accomplishments of

the citizen in time of peace, becomes of paramount importance in time of war, when a nation's liberties are endangered.

Although in this country there has existed until recently no general organization for the cultivation of the art of shooting, yet there are in America all the elements necessary for the creation of successful permanent shooting societies. We therefore believe, that the day is not far distant, when this excellent and useful art will have as many votaries among us as in Great Britain, Germany and Switzerland.

The first National Shooting Festival on this Continent occurred in 1865, at Highland, Madison Co., Ill. Such was its success that it was unanimously agreed to create a Society to be called THE AMERICAN SHARP SHOOTERS' SOCIETY.

This Society has rapidly increased in numbers, and daily accessions from among the best of our population are made to its ranks. It has given an impetus to other clubs all over the States, and now the SHOOTING FESTIVAL is firmly inaugurated as a popular NATIONAL pastime, gathering the intellect, wealth and fashion of the land to its reunions.

To invest this institution with a yet greater importance, it was further resolved to have every second year a NATIONAL SHOOTING FESTIVAL, to bring together the various local American clubs and visitors from abroad.

The second meeting was accordingly held at Chicago, Ill., in 1866, and was again a most decided success.

The third meeting is now organizing, and will take place in the City of New York, from June 27th to July 6th, 1868, and it is our ardent wish to render it a great International entertainment.

*To this Festival you are cordially invited.*

It will be conducted on the same plan as the world-renowned Swiss Shooting Festivals and other great national shooting festivals, held during the last few years in Europe.

Appeals have already been forwarded to experts and votaries of the art on the European Continent, and we now address ourselves directly to you, Englishmen, sanguine of your support.

We hopefully invoke your kind and generous co-operation towards the *sculling of our list of prizes*, one of the main points in most competitions, although, in a tilt of arms, like this will be, the honor of having wrested a prize from skillful rivals under the eyes of the entire civilized world, is of itself a signal reward.

But, to Europeans, the very fact of a visit to the Metropolis of this our young country—a nation of nations—cannot but possess a peculiar charm. In your short sojourn you may learn what it is that attracts millions from the time-honored institutions of the old world, and, more important still, what it is that *keeps them here*. We also give you the assurance that those who may visit us, will have a hearty and enthusiastic welcome.

The daily and speedy communication between here and the Mother Country, offers barely an obstacle to a friendly intercourse such as we propose.

We trust to enter at an early moment into communication respecting the object which we have at heart, not for one moment doubting but that we shall receive your generous aid and cordial co-operation in adding a fresh and powerful impetus to our proposed scheme of a grand International Shooting Festival in New York, in June, 1868.